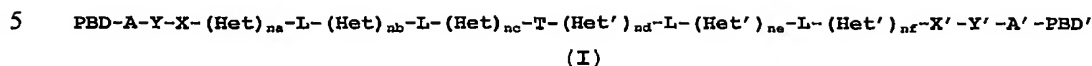
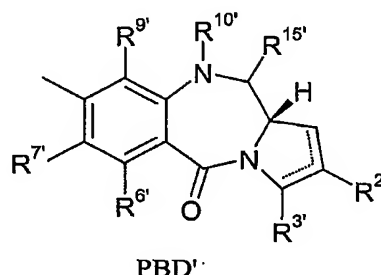
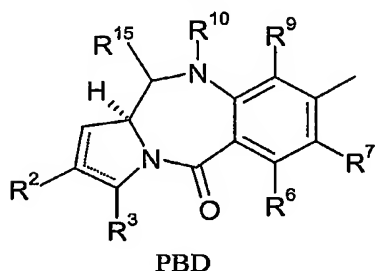


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):

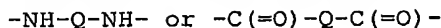


and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein



- 10 with the bonds at the 8 position on each molecule bond to the A and A' groups respectively.
the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;
R² and R³ are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH₂, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO₂-R, CO₂R and COR;
15 R⁶, R⁷ and R⁹ are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo; where R and R' are independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups; or
20 R⁶ and R⁷ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2; R¹⁰ is a nitrogen protecting group and R¹⁵ is either O-R¹¹, where R¹¹ is a hydroxyl protecting group; or R¹⁵ is OH, =O or =S; or R¹⁰ and R¹⁵ together form a double bond between C10 and N11;
25 A is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond; Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond; X and X' are both either NH or C(=O); each Het and Het' is independently an amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl group;
30 each L is independently selected from β-alanine, glycine, 4-aminobutanoic acid and a single bond;

T is a divalent linker group of the form:



wherein Q is a divalent group such that $\text{HQ} = \text{R}$;

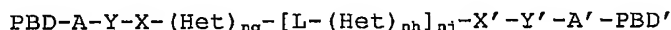
- 5 A' , Y' , Het' , $\text{R}^{2'}$, $\text{R}^{3'}$, $\text{R}^{6'}$, $\text{R}^{7'}$, $\text{R}^{9'}$, $\text{R}^{10'}$, $\text{R}^{11'}$ and $\text{R}^{15'}$ are all independently selected from the same lists as previously defined for A, Y, Het, R^2 , R^3 , R^6 , R^7 , R^9 , R^{10} , R^{11} and R^{15} respectively; na, nb, nc, nd, ne and nf are each independently 0 to 5 and the sum $\text{na} + \text{nb} + \text{nc} + \text{nd} + \text{ne} + \text{nf}$ is 0 to 16.

- 10 2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the sums $\text{na} + \text{nb} + \text{nc}$ and $\text{nd} + \text{ne} + \text{nf}$ are equal.

3. A compound according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein Het and Het' are nitrogen containing heteroarylne units.

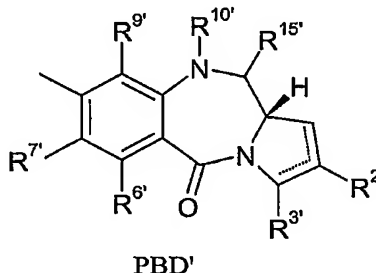
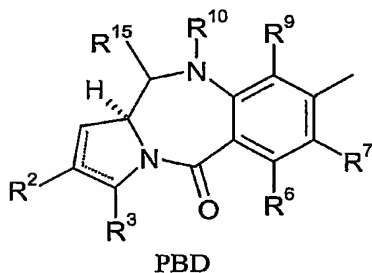
15

4. A compound of formula (II):



(II)

- 20 and salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein



the bonds at the 8 position on PBD and PBD' bond to A and A' groups respectively;

- 25 the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3;

R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from -H, -OH, =O, =CH₂, -CN, -R, OR, halo, =CH-R, O-SO₂-R, CO₂R and COR;

R^6 , R^7 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH,

- 30 SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR', nitro, Me₃Sn and halo; where R and R' are

- independently selected from optionally substituted C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₃₋₂₀ heterocyclyl and C₅₋₂₀ aryl groups; or
R⁶ and R⁷ together form a group -O-(CH₂)_p-O-, where p is 1 or 2;
R¹⁰ is a nitrogen protecting group and R¹⁵ is either O-R¹¹, where
5 R¹¹ is a hydroxyl protecting group; or
R¹⁵ is OH, =O or =S; or
R¹⁰ and R¹⁵ together form a double bond between C10 and N11;
A is selected from O, S, NH or a single bond;
Y is a divalent group such that HY = R, or a single bond;
10 each Het is independently an amino-heteroarylene-carbonyl group;
each L is independently selected from β-alanine, glycine, 4-aminobutanoic acid and a single bond;
A', Y', R^{2'}, R^{3'}, R^{6'}, R^{7'}, R^{9'}, R^{10'}, R^{11'} and R^{15'} are all
independently selected from the same lists as previously defined
15 for A, Y, Het, R², R³, R⁶, R⁷, R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹⁵ respectively;
ng is 1 to 5, nh is 1 to 5 and nj is 0 to 3
X and X' are either NH and C(=O) respectively or C(=O) and NH respectively.
- 20 5. A compound according to claim 4, wherein the total number of
Het groups in the compound represented by the sum ng + (nj x nh)
is 1 to 3.
- 25 6. A compound according to either claim 4 or claim 5, wherein
Het are nitrogen containing heteroarylene units.
7. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein PBD and PBD' are the same.
- 30 8. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein R⁹ and R^{9'} are H.
9. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims,
wherein R², R³, R^{2'} and R^{3'} are independently selected from R and
35 H.

10. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R⁶ and R^{6'} are independently selected from H, OH, OR, SH, NH₂, nitro and halo.
- 5 11. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R⁷ and R^{7'} are independently selected from H, OR, SH, SR, NH₂, NHR, NRR' and halo.
12. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein R¹⁰ and R¹⁵ together form a double bond between N10 and C11 and R^{10'} and R^{15'} together form a double bond between N10' and C11'.
- 10 13. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein R¹⁰ and R^{10'} are independently selected from H, BOC, Troc and alloc, and R¹¹ and R^{11'} are independently selected from OH, THP or a silyl oxygen protecting group.
- 15 14. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 for use in a method of therapy.
- 20 15. A pharmaceutical composition containing a compound of any one of claims 1 to 13, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 25 16. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 13 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a proliferative disease.
- 30 17. A method of treatment of a proliferative disease, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1 to 13.